

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A wear-resistant sliding part comprising:
a first part and a second part that move in linkage with each other; and
a wear-resistant member that stands in between contacting portions of the two parts;
wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted in a recess provided in the second part in
a state in which it is protected from falling off and it is allowed in the recess to rotate and move
in a parallel direction to a bottom surface of the recess;

wherein a bottom surface of the wear-resistant member makes contact with the bottom
surface of the recess and the first part makes contact with ~~[[the]]~~ a top surface of the wear-
resistant member, allowing the first and the second parts to move; ~~[[and]]~~

wherein a perimeter of the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member has a chamfer
that eliminates a sharp edge;

wherein the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member making contact with an inner
radial surface of said recess has a flatness in the range of 0.05 to 2.5 μm and a convex shape of
which outer side is raised up at the perimeter side; and

wherein at least one of the bottom surface of the wear-resistant member making contact
with the bottom surface of said recess, a side surface of the wear-resistant member making
contact with an inner radial surface of said recess, and the top surface of the wear-resistant
member making contact with said first part has a surface roughness (Ra) of 0.2 μm or less.

2. (Original) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1, wherein the chamfer at the perimeter of the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member is larger than a rounded fillet or a flat fillet of said recess.

3. (Previously Presented) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1, wherein a chamfer is also formed to eliminate a sharp edge at a perimeter of a top surface of said wear-resistant member.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the flatness of the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member is larger than that of the bottom surface of the recess provided for said second part.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1 [[6]], wherein the difference between an outer diameter of said wear-resistant member and an inner diameter of said recess is 0.03 mm or more.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled)

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10. (Previously Presented) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1, wherein said wear-resistant member is made from materials including silicon nitride ceramics.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1, wherein the two parts moving in linkage with each other are a valve bridge and a rocker arm in a valve train system of a diesel engine, wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted into the recess provided at an upper portion of the valve bridge and a tip of the wear-resistant member is arranged to make contact with the rocker arm.

Claims 14-15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A sliding mechanism using the sliding part according to claim 1.

Claims 17-18 (Canceled)